

HADLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT, 1905.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District, during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1905.

Population, 1881, 3237 ; 1891, 3229 ; 1901, 3245.
Area 4288 acres. Number of persons per acre, 756.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 64 (32 males, and 32 females), giving a birth-rate of 19·72 per thousand of the population. The birth-rate steadily decreases year by year. The number of births and birth-rates for the previous ten years were :—

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Births	97	92	88	84	79	79	92	84	77	73	64
Birth-rate	30·04	28·49	27·25	26·01	24·46	24·46	28·35	25·88	23·72	22·49	19·72

DEATHS. The number of deaths registered from all causes, and at all ages, in this District was 41 (21 males, 20 females), giving a death-rate of 12·63 per thousand of the population. This death-rate compares favourably with the death-rates of former years.

Thirteen persons over 70 years of age died during the year. The deaths and death-rates for the previous ten years were :—

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Deaths	61	45	43	63	49	54	42	52	28	43	41
Death-rate	18·8	13·9	13·31	19·51	15·17	16·72	12·94	16·02	8·62	13·25	12·63

Infantile Mortality. Eight deaths to 64 births occurred among children under one year of age, giving a death-rate of 125 per thousand births. Three of these deaths were due to congenital defects, two to diarrhoea, two to convulsions, one to pneumonia. The death-rates for the previous ten years were :—

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
	51·5	76	79·5	202·3	88·60	63·29	54·34	130·9	64·93	109·5	125

Three deaths have been caused by Measles, all three cases occurring in children under 5 years of age.

The deaths and death-rates due to *Zymotic* disease in the previous ten years were :—

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Diphtheria	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Scarlatina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Deaths	2	1	0	14	2	0	2	3	1	0	3
Death-rate ..	·6	·3	0	4·3	·6	0	·61	·92	·30	0	·92

The deaths caused by the following diseases during the previous ten years were :—

	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Respiratory	13	3	6	4	3	13	5	14	2	8	8
Heart	6	9	5	4	7	4	3	9	5	3	5
Cancer	3	2	2	1	3	1	2	3	4	5	1
Consumption	6	6	7	7	6	5	—	3	—	3	1
From all other causes	31	25	23	47	30	31	30	23	17	24	26

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT. Two cases have been notified during the year 1905, giving a rate of ·6 per thousand of the population.

Cases notified :—Erysipelas, 1 ; Typhoid, 1.

Erysipelas. This was a simple case and quickly recovered.

Typhoid. It was impossible to trace the origin of this case satisfactorily.

Tubercular Diseases. Three deaths have been returned as caused by this disease.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, nil.

Measles. A very serious epidemic of this disease affected the town during the Autumn, and necessitated the closing of all the schools : fortunately only three fatal cases occurred. It is impossible so far to educate the public to realize that the complications of measles are dangerous.

Drainage. The surface drainage is regularly inspected and attended to, both by flushing and cleansing with disinfectants. The water-course at the upper part of Angel Street has been repaired and a well-made V-shaped brick gutter fixed, this is a great sanitary improvement.

The neglect of closet middens by the lazy is still a source of nuisance during the Summer-months, I am, however, glad to state that much improvement in this respect was noticeable during the hot weeks of July and August.

Dwelling Houses. Two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with. The majority of the cottages are dry and fairly well lighted.

Water Supply. This is derived for drinking purposes from wells, and for household use from polks and the river. Another bore at the depth of 110 feet has been made during the year, giving another public supply to the upper part of Angel Street, and making seven public pumps now in use.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR. Inspections made to cottages, 380. Notices served to empty middens, 14, as against 45 in the previous year. Notices served for the removal of refuse, 17.

The Slaughter Houses, Bake-Offices, and Lodging House have been inspected, and the white-washing, etc., attended to. Several drains have been repaired under his supervision. Nuisances have been abated by verbal request, no legal proceedings have been found necessary.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. The total number registered is 34.

Retail Bakehouses	8
Blacksmiths' Workshops	2
Wearing Apparel Workplaces	10
Builders' and Carpenters' Workshops	4
Other Workshops	10

There are no underground bakehouses. The workshops in the district are well ventilated and well lighted. The drainage and necessary accommodation are in compliance with the Council's Bye-Laws.

There are no home-workers.

There has not been any infectious disease amongst the workers in the various workshops during the year.

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